CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a polymeric platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a door of said vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending along a lateral side of said vehicle; and

a least first and second spaced apart polymeric support brackets, said brackets being generally J-shaped having an upper end for connection with said lateral side of said vehicle and said brackets having a lower end transversely extending and integrally connected with said platform and said brackets being co-molded therewith.

2. A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said polymeric material is a plastic.

3. A running board as described in claim 2, wherein said plastic is polypropylene.

4. A running board as described in claim 2, wherein said plastic is a fiber reinforced plastic.

5. A running board as described in claim 4, wherein said fiber is taken from the group of polyester and fiberglass fibers.

6. A running board as described in claim 4, wherein said fiber is a long length of fiber.

7. A running board as described in claim 6, wherein said fiber is approximately 12++ millimeters in length.

8. A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said running board has an upper solid surface reinforced by webbing underneath.

9. A running board as described in claim 8, wherein said platform has transverse webs generally perpendicular to said solid upper surface.

10. A running board as described in claim 9, wherein said platform transverse webs are continuous with a portion of said brackets.

11. A running board as described in claim 8, wherein said platform has longitudinal webs angled with respect to said upper solid surface.

12. A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said brackets have a triple channel cross-sectional configuration.

13. A running board as described in claim 12, wherein an inner channel juxtaposes two larger width outer channels of said brackets.

14. A running board as described in claim 13, wherein said outer channels open toward said vehicle.

15. A running board as described in claim 12, wherein said bracket channels have side walls continuous with transverse webs of said platform.

16. A running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a long fiber reinforced plastic platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a side door of said vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending generally along a lateral side of said vehicle, said platform having a generally upper solid surface reinforced by perpendicular transverse webs and angled longitudinal webs;

multiple long fiber-reinforced plastic polymeric support brackets, said brackets being generally J-shaped having an upper end for connection to said lateral side of

said vehicle and a lower end transversely extended integrally connected with said platform and being co-molded therewith, said brackets being of a triple channel configuration and wherein said channels have lateral sides continuous with said transverse webs of said platform, and a middle channel having a smaller width than adjacent channels.

17. A running board as described in claim 16, wherein said plastic is polypropylene.

18. A running board as described in claim 16, wherein said fibers are glass fibers approximately 12++ millimeters in length.

19. A method of forming a running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:

providing a first mold half and a second mold half, said mold halves forming a cavity providing a platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a side door of a vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending generally along a lateral side of a vehicle, said platform having a generally upper solid surface reinforced by perpendicular transverse webs and angled longitudinal webs, and said cavity forming generally J-shaped support brackets having an upper end for connection to a lateral side of a vehicle and a lower end transversely extended integrally connected with said platform;

closing said first and second mold halves together;

injecting molten plastic into said mold halves; and

removing said mold halves along a single draw line generally parallel with said angled longitudinal webs of said platform.